(c) A project for development of Gopalpur-on-Sea (Distt. Ganjam) has been sanctioned for Central financial assistance of Rs. 331.43 lakh during the current financial year.

(d) Government has prepared 20-year Perspective Plans for the States/UTs with the broad objectives of:

i) assessing the existing tourism scenario in the States;

ii) reviewing the status of existing development/investment plans;

iii) evaluating the existing potential tourist destinations;

iv) developing sustainable tourism in a time period of 20 years;

v) giving plans with short term and long term targets;

vi) indicating the likely investment on infrastructure development under different heads; and

vii) preparing an action plan for implementing of identified potential scheme/projects, and for development of infrastructure

The 20-year Perspective Plans prepared for the States have given State-wise details and the action plan for implementation of identified potential development schemes/projects.

Funds for death anniversary of Akbar

275. SHRI AMAR SINGH: SHRI
ABU ASIM AZMI.

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the President of Indian History Congress for the grant of funds for holding a session to mark the 400th death anniversary of the legendary 16th century Mughal Monarch Akbar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of funds released; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A proposal was received from Indian History Congress for a grant of Rs. 1.5 lakhs for holding a Seminar on 'Akbar and his world' at Vishvabharati, Santiniketan as part of observance of Fourth centenary of Akbar's death and it was considered under the Scheme for Financial Assistance for Centenary/Anniversary celebrations by Voluntary Organisations. Under the Scheme, grants are normally given for celebrating Birth Anniversaries/Centenaries, hence no funds were approved. The decision is open to review/reconsideration.

Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourists

276. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a growing mis-match between the foreign exchange spent by Indian tourists abroad and dollars earned by the country from inbound tourists;

(b) whether the RBI has estimated the deficit in country's tourism earnings at 619.00 million dollars; and

(c) whether tourist arrivals in India recorded an all-time high at 3.91 million during 2005, surpassing the target of 3.8 million arrivals and if so, the reasons for lower net earnings for the year on inbound tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) As per the latest yearly statistics provided by Reserve Bank of India, foreign exchange receipts from travel/tourism and payments by India during 2002-03,2003-04 and 2004-05 have been as follows. There has been a net earning of US$ 985 million during the year 2004-05:

In US$ million

Year	Receipts	Payments	Net
2002-03	3312	3341	(-)29
2003-04	5037	3602	(+)1435
2004-05	6495	5510	(+)985

(b) As per the information provided by RBI, the net earnings from travel/tourism for three months period July 2005 to Sept. 2005 have been